

ABSTRACT

A quick change cutting link of saw chain for cutting wood comprises a base member adapted to be pivotally connected to other links of the saw chain. The base member comprises a seat surface. A cutting member comprising a cutting edge releasably engages the seat surface of the base member. The cutting member includes sintered and compacted particles of abrasion resistant material. In particular, in one design the base member seat surface has a first taper and the cutting member includes a surface having a second taper. The first and second tapers extend at an angle ranging from about 0.5° to about 45° relative to a direction of chain travel at a close tolerance effective to cause self-locking engagement of the first taper of the seat surface and the second taper of the cutting member surface. The close tolerance is characterized by variation in the angle being not more than about 1° and, in particular, not more than 0.5° . The invention is also directed to the cutting member itself, including a design in which one of the cutting member and seat surface includes an inverted-L shaped protrusion and the other includes an inverted-L shaped recess for receiving the inverted-L shaped protrusion. The inverted L-shaped protrusion and recess may be designed so as to form a wedge. Also included is wood-cutting saw chain containing the inventive cutting link such as saw chain adapted for use on a chain saw, timber harvester and the like.